

The Times.

THE TIMES COMPANY.

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THE TIMES COMPANY.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1898.

THE FREE LANCE ASKS US SOME QUESTIONS.

The Fredericksburg Free Lance hangs on to its advocacy of Dewey and Wheeler as the nominees of the Democratic party in 1899, and in furtherance of its programme, invites us to a chop-logic contest with it through certain questions it puts to us. For the gratification of the Free Lance we will deal with them as it asks them. It begins:

1. Was not the support of Palmer and Buckner in '96 aid and comfort, indirectly, if not directly, to the McKinley and Hobart ticket?

We are not sure, but we rather suspect the Free Lance would like the Times to state which it preferred to see elected in 1896—William McKinley or William J. Bryan. If that is what it is after it had as well come out openly with the question, for we have never had the slightest objection to stating where we stood. We infinitely preferred to see McKinley elected. Had we not the principles he stands for, they could not possibly have been as destructive as those Bryan stood for. Although nominally a Democratic platform, the programme of the Chicago manifesto was absolutely destructive of the interests of our country. We want our position upon that point clearly understood so that what follows may not be obscured by any doubt about it.

Unquestionably we think the effect of the nomination of Palmer and Buckner was help to McKinley. But that was not the purpose of the Palmer and Buckner movement. That movement had for its object to preserve a rallying point for the Democracy on which the party may be found again when the madness that then had possession of it had passed away. If there had been no Palmer and Buckner ticket some of those who voted for Palmer and Buckner might have voted for McKinley, possibly, but we don't believe one of them would have voted for Bryan. The great body of them would have refrained from voting at all. The citizen has the right to refrain from voting. He ought to vote when he can give expression to his views, but he is not obliged to vote when that vote would give the lie to the whole of his past life.

Addison makes Cato says most happily: "When vice prevails, and impious men bear sway."

So that whether the Palmer and Buckner movement did or did not give aid and comfort to the McKinley and Hobart ticket, the men engaged in it had to make it. In this world we must do what our consciences point out as our duty, whether it helps one or hurts another.

The Free Lance continues:

Was not the Republican party in 1896 practically what it will be in 1897? If so, "Theory Times" reiterates its course, then, with the declaration made in its article of last Sunday that:

"The whole pack and bundle of Republican theory, in the opinion of The Times, stands absolutely to the destruction of human liberty and the free government."

It reconciles it by repeating what we have said above. Had as its principles are, they are not so bad as those of the Chicago platform. The Republican doctrines tend, or rather lead, on by slow degrees to destruction and give us opportunities for checking the downward progress. Bryanism rushed as over Niagara's Falls and would have made destruction complete at the beginning.

The Free Lance also asks—

And, further, will it kindly tell us specifically what is its

Alleged-Tiltman theory, which is the basis upon which our civilization rests?

We think true Democracy may be summed up in the phrase, "Equal opportunities for all." That is the rule which we wish to see prevail. The Chicago platform antagonizes this idea in demanding that men having dollars due them shall be forced to receive in payment coins worth only half dollars, and in laying down a principle of government that infuriated mobs may coerce corporations to accede to their demands by physical violence.

Disguise its purpose as you choose with euphemisms and sophisms, but those are the foundation ideas, and they mean a

relapse to violence and force in place of the reign of law.

The Free Lance concludes with a request that we tell it whom we would suggest as the Democratic nominees in 1899. We reply that we are not ready to name any man. Men are of small moment to us, except as they represent ideas and principles. We can go no further than to say this: We will gladly accept any man of good moral character and reasonably fair abilities whose life shows that he has always been devoted to the cardinal ideas of Democracy that all men shall have equal opportunities, who is in favor of one standard of value which is not to be tampered with, who demands that the law shall always be accepted and submitted to, and who wishes to see the laws so amended that all men may use the resources they have so as to get the best possible results from credit.

THE BIRMINGHAM IRON MILLS.

We are gratified to know that the failure of the Birmingham Rolling Mill Company was in no sense due to any trouble in operating the mills profitably, but rather to a fight among the stockholders which the Age-Herald calls a "stock juggling scheme."

That paper says that the mills have not closed down a minute and will not close. That the pay rolls will continue; work will go on, profits will be made and the wheels of progress continue to revolve. And it adds:

There was a "nigger in the woodpile," and a stream of molten metal was poured into the crucibles to drive him out. The thing has been badly financed. It overreached itself. The story is told in the news columns. In brief, the company decided over a year ago to add a steel plant to cost \$200,000. It planned to house preferred stock to pay for the same. The plant necessitated the outlay of the full \$200,000. The stockholders were relied upon to take all this but \$50,000. Some of them refused to take their proportionate share and the result was that but \$25,000 share of the amount was subscribed and paid in. The balance of the cost of the steel plant, about \$175,000, was therefore paid from the operating capital of the concern. This cramped it. An attempt was made to raise more money, but the stockholders were not in proportionate. Some of them would not. The others therefore resorted to the assignment process. It may mean a free-for-all fight, but it may mean the liquidation of the company.

The creditors looked into the affairs of the concern yesterday and were enlightened. Every creditor knows he will get every dollar due him and all agreed to silently wait. The fires of the mill will continue to burn and illumine the skies, the laborers will continue to get their wages and spend their well-earned dollars here. Let the stockholders squabble. It is no concern of Birmingham's.

It is no longer an open question as to whether or not iron and steel can be profitably made in the South. That is a fact that has been demonstrated, and it has been further demonstrated that we can make both iron and steel cheaper than anybody else can make them anywhere else in the world, and no quarrel among stockholders can alter the fact. It is more than probable that the troubles with the Birmingham stockholders will have the effect to emphasize and advertise the South's steel-making and iron-making capacity and so bring good out of evil.

HOW THE SOUTH GROWS.

We had something to say yesterday about the improved conditions in the South. Since then we note an article in the Baltimore Sun from a Chattanooga correspondent on the same line. This correspondent says that there has been a phenomenal increase within the past ten months in the production of iron and coal in Tennessee and Alabama with a corresponding development of incidental industries growing out of these. According to this report, during the time indicated the furnaces of Tennessee and Alabama have produced and shipped 1,044,420 tons of pig iron, an increase over the corresponding period last year of 20,548 tons. Shipments from the Birmingham district alone amounted to 68,222 tons, an increase of 13,211 tons. Shipments of cast iron from these two States amounted to 109,354 tons, an increase of 22 per cent. A corresponding increase in the output of coal is noted, and it is claimed that since January 1st new industries for the manufacture of iron and steel products have been either actually begun or projected in Tennessee and Alabama to the estimated value of \$10,000,000.

This has naturally given an impetus to the mining industry throughout these two States and in Virginia also. The great mineral wealth in Southwest Virginia, which for so long a time has been hidden in the ground will be developed in season, and we have no doubt that there will be another boom in that section within the near future. Not a land boom, but a general boom in mineral properties which are of incalculable value.

But business conditions are good all over this country and in spite of the whines of croakers and calamity dealers, Bradstreet's, which is one of the most conservative authorities of the country, says that the year 1898 is a record breaker. If this country can have a few years of rest from agitation, and the outlook now is peaceful unless we become embroiled in European complications, there will be necessarily a sure and steady increase in business and the country will enjoy a season of unprecedented prosperity.

CONGRESS.

Congress will be reconvened to-morrow and we hope that it will distinguish itself rather by what it shall not do than by legislation, or attempted legislation for political effect.

There will be no possibility of accomplishing anything in the way of currency reform, as the Senate will not pass any bill of that character that shall not "do something for silver" and so it will be better for the business of the country. If that question be left alone for the present. The country needs now, more than anything else, complete rest from financial agitation.

We hope also that the "expansionists" will keep themselves within bounds and not attempt to commit the government to a policy of imperialism. The jingoes did not rest until they had plunged the country into a war with Spain, for what purpose we have all been asking ourselves ever since the first gun was fired, and we hope that they will now have the decency to be ashamed of themselves and to manifest it by doing no more mischief. Especially do we hope that there will be no pyrotechnics over the "negro outrages."

In the South." The outbreak in North Carolina was the result of Republican attempts to put the negro in power, and it would ill-become the Republicans in Congress to make a fuss about the necessities and inevitable revolt of the whites. If the Republicans will only resolve and stick to it never again to attempt this impossible thing, they will have no occasion hereafter to "investigate" the South. The best thing that they could do for their party and for the black man, is to let this whole question alone and let the Southern whites manage their local affairs in their own way.

A SAD SPECTACLE.

When the Chicago platform was promulgated in 1896 there were many Democrats who refused, flat-footed, to sanction it and to support the ticket nominated by that convention. But there were others who, while they did not believe in the principles and policies then and there enunciated and formulated in the famous platform of 1896, yet because they could not get themselves up to the point of breaking away from the party with which they had been for so long a time associated, cast their lot with the Chicago Democracy and went down with it in defeat.

We have watched with great interest the outwittings from time to time of those esteemed contemporaries which supported the Chicago ticket in spite of their opposition to free silverism. Whenever any one of them has stood up in meeting to give in its experience we have listened with profound attention and deep interest. Among the most intelligent of these is the Memphis Commercial-Appeal, which of late has been speaking its mind in language that is plain. We have quoted several extracts of late from our Memphis contemporary showing the inclination of its mind, but here is a paragraph from a more recent article which is quite to the point. We quote:

Evil days have come to the Democratic party. It is not only a minority party, but a wretched and disreputable party; it is not only a party of reaction, but a factional, faction-bedecked party of reaction. It has no leaders and no objective point to which to lead. The third of place and position is more thought of than are principles or policies. What was once a great party that stood for the broadest statesmanship has degenerated into a number of insurrectionary factions.

That is the gospel truth, and yet the reason for this disintegration is not hard to find. Indeed, it would have been most strange if the case had been otherwise. The Democratic party has from the beginning been one of the two great national parties of this country. It has pursued a certain line of policy that has differentiated it, as we tried to show yesterday, from the party of centralization and nationalism. It has always been a great dignified party and any person who will take the trouble to study its platforms from its organization up to the year 1896 will see one great underlying principle, and will see that while its policies changed from time to time on certain fixed questions, the party never once departed from its great principles. It was always a broad party and never a party of one idea. It welcomed into its organization all who believed in its doctrines, but it never compromised itself by making alliances on a single issue with factions that were opposed to its general principles.

But when the New Democracy was born a new thing was done. The New Democracy determined to join hands with all sorts and conditions of political factions and one-party parties that favored free silver, and so the platform was so formulated as to the Populist party and the free silver Republican party and the Chicago Democratic party could form a sort of triple alliance and make a common fight for free silver.

We have always said, and have said it time without number, that there was no half-way ground between genuine Democracy and full-fledged Populism. But the New Democracy tried to put itself half way between the two, so as to catch voters from both sides. And what was the result? It went too far towards Populism to retain all true Democrats, and it did not go quite far enough to gather in all the Populists and so, as our Memphis contemporary says, it is to-day torn by factions, and there is no man who can say for a certainty what the Democratic party of this country as constituted stands for to-day. It is a pitiful spectacle that this great and grand old party of Thomas Jefferson should find itself in such an uncertain attitude. That is what the Tillmans and the Algreeds and their associates have done for the party, and so long as they are continued in the leadership, the party can never recover and recuperate. It will still be but a "turbulent and faction-bedecked party of negation."

Our bright and entertaining and esteemed contemporary, the Stanton Daily Spectator, announces that its increased patronage and the demand for advertising space has compelled it to provide more room for business and that it will, therefore, enlarge its proportions after January 1st. That is an agreeable announcement. The more Spectator we get the better we shall like it. And then, too, it is pleasant to know that General Prosperity has dropped in at the Spectator's office, in spite of its protest. Come now, old fellow, own up like a man.

Quay and Governor Tanner, of Illinois, hold a monopoly so far in official indictments.

The Indiana attorney who was barred from presenting an argument in court written in verse should, of course, apply for poetic license.

Hon. Hannis Taylor now criticizes his country's treatment of Spain. As a holder of public post-mortems Hannis has few equals.

The liquor internal revenue tax from the Peoria (Illinois) district alone will pay annually the \$20,000,000 we pay for the Philippines. It would seem, then, that it was all right for us to swallow up all the islands.

Governor Tanner might turn his Gatling gun on that indictment.

With the Republicans in power in New York State there is but little danger of there being any run on that canal bank.

Colonel Bryan returned to his command before his furlough expired; but, after all, there was nothing in the election re-

turns that indicated anything better than his army commission.

Shafter refuses to reply to Sampson. He evidently thinks that Sampson should go off and get a reputation first.

Spain at least has a few Canaries left in the colonial cage.

Spain has been congratulated by the Paris Petit Bleu, but it's really the red-white and blue that she is interested in now.

The campaign is over, but old man Quay still hears heavy bombardment in the windward passage.

The postal business increased about \$6,000,000 in the past year, but most of it was probably war poems mailed and returned by the papers.

Carnegie has just made a big donation to the Wilkesburg (Pa.) bapiste band, and of course he expects them to blow a little for his anti-expansion league.

With the present telephone rates a man can talk over one thousand miles, and he is seldom long-winded at that.

The news that gold has been discovered near Santiago will probably cause more people to dig out for Cuba.

"Blanco," it is said, "has sailed for Spain." And this is about on a par with the other things that he has done for her.

The official invitations to the White House receptions to "Congressmen Roberts and wives" will have to be printed separately.

The new civil service rules will start out like the annual baseball rules and wind up with a scrap with the umpire.

The Windy Point Club might pull off a resolution on bad gas.

The most frequent entries at the local custom house lately seem to have been imported firemen.

Agulnaldo might be induced to read the story of the rise and fall of that now good old man, Sitting Bull.

Queen Lili says she wants to spend the winter in Washington and, puts in a claim for \$50,000. She has apparently lived a while in Washington before.

The politicians seem to have had a great poll on the Erie canal towpath.

That Culpeper baker who left about \$1.00 in a box in his shop may have been a thoroughbred, but he had very little regard for his dough.

With Christmas Coming On.

"Don't you believe happiness is merely a mental condition?"

"No; it's a financial condition."—Chicago Record.

Good Joiner.

"Does your husband go much into society, Mrs. Malahy?"

"Sure. He belongs to all 'em."—Chicago Tribune.

Sad Promise.

"What did Safegate say when she broke the last cut-glass love?"

"She said it should never happen again."—Chicago Record.

Under the Comforter.

Wife (waking suddenly from sleep)—Henry, did you call?

Husband (who has been spending previous evening with the boys)—No; I'll raise it five—Harris Life.

Easily Explained.

"Goodness me! What do you think of a young man of twenty-two declaring that kissing games are wicked?"

"I think somebody has been taking advantage of the idea to kiss the young man's sweetheart."—Indianapolis Journal.

Looks That Way.

"The wife is called the 'better half.' Which may be true; but I don't see how it can be true if the husband is a better half of a woman."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

At the Library.

Regular Frequenter (at public library)—I want to get a Library of the Black Hawk war, and I can't find it in the catalogue. Have you such a book?

Attendant—I think so. Look under the head of "ornithology."—Chicago Tribune.

Works Both Ways.

Strateck—Doctor, do you believe that smoking cigarettes ever made anyone crazy?

Doctor—I'm not so sure about that, but I suspect that craziness has caused a good many people to take to cigarettes.—Boston Transcript.

Question of the Hour.

The Medium—The spirit of your deceased wife is now here. Do you wish to ask her any questions?

Newly-Made Widower—Yes; tell her I want to know where she put my winter lannels—Puck.

The Size of It.

Mame (after six hours' shopping)—How much money did you have when you started out, Liz?

Liz—Fifteen cents.

Mame—Then you must have ten cents left. Let's go in and see the show.—Judge.

Goats vs. Babies.

"My little man, art't you pleased to have a new baby brother, or did you want a little sister?"

"If it was all the same to the Lord, I preferred a goat."—Scrivener's Magazine.

Smart One.

"I'd like to know," said the business manager, "whether this fellow down in Reuben county is a pure Jay or one of these smart ones."

"What about him," asked the editor of the comic weekly.

"I have a lot of chestnuts for a year's subscription."—Indianapolis Journal.

A Christmas Wish.

(By a young monopolist.)

I wish my dad was a great big man, Six thousand or more feet high, With a fearful big legs like the space Of a half of the bright blue sky.

I'd hang his golf shoe up to-night, And fill all the other boys With only a bit of me, I'd corner him, I'd corner him, I'd corner him, I'd corner him.

There are some with greater beauty, And some that wittier be, But there's only one we girls That ever believed in me.

(Or she'd not believe in me).

She's not an ancient lassie, Her years they are but three; Which, may be, is the reason That she believes in me.

—Jean Lyall in Truth.

A Cold Wave Romance.

A glistering freeze Is on the trees, And harsh winds squeal!

The snowflakes steal! The blinding maid Has left her wheel!

The sky is gray, And thro' the day The snowflakes steal!

It's winter, and The blinding maid Has left her wheel.

It's winter, yes, And you can guess How she must feel! She struck a sheet Of ice and then She left her wheel!

—Baltimore American.

Sampson and Shafter.

Sampson is after Shafter. Shafter is after Sampson.

Shafter's been putting the clamps on Sampson—

Sampson says that Shafter possesses a terrible gall—

Shafter says he did it all—

It's caused Sampson to fall; Sampson says it was he That compelled the Dons to flee!

Shafter Got after Sampson—

Now Sampson is putting the clamps on Shafter

Excuse our laughter—

Is that the matter, as both of them show,

Is that neither was there when the Spaniards let go,

So, To an end by letting the credit go

To Teddy and little old fighting Joe? —Cleveland Leader.

They Call You a Syren.

They call you a syren, my own pretty maid,

They say you'll betray me, but I'm not afraid;

They tell me that danger lurks in your bright eyes,

I heed not their warnings, their words I despise.

I heed not their warnings, the words that I hear,

Are as light and as frothy as wind-driven spray.

They grudge me your kisses, their bosoms are steel,

They grudge me the pulsings their hearts cannot feel.

They blame me for staying so long by your side,

But there I'll linger, and laugh when they chide.

That man has my hatred who'd take from me this,

My haven of solace and fountain of bliss.

And he who would thoughtlessly tear me away

From the light of my life, the sun of my day.

I count him no friend; and he makes me

Who robs me of pleasure and offers me woe.

If false, you can never be false than I.

If false, I'm the loser, and mine's the despair.

No rack with its tortures could make me untrue,

Id all the future for one day with you.

I'd risk all the future, and forfeit all fame,

And live with anathemas heaped on my name.

Brave poverty's pangs and a coward's disgrace,

To bask in the light of your soul-stirring face.

Even though you deceive me and my heart should break,

The past hath its treasures that nothing can take.

I'm rich with your love, and I'm poor when it's lost.

'Tis well worth possessing whatever it may cost.

They call you a syren, my own pretty maid,

They say you'll betray me, but I'm not afraid;

They tell me that danger lurks in your bright eyes,

I heed not their warnings, their words I despise.

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